

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 of the patent application were presented for examination. In the Office Action of June 7, 2007, claims 1-15 were rejected. The claims, as amended, are listed above. Claim 2 has been canceled. New claim 16 has been added. No new matter has been introduced to the claims. Accordingly, claims 1 and 3-16 are now pending for examination.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims and respond to the Office Action as follows:

Rejections Under 35 USC § 102(b)

Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated US Patent No. 6,009,480 issued to Pleso ("Pleso"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections. In summary, a memory within the I/O control panel of claim 1 is provided capabilities of the I/O control panel prior to connecting peripherals as described in Pleso.

Independent claim 1, as amended, is representative of amended independent claims 5, 10 and 14. Claim 1 is directed towards a method for automatically determining a configuration of an I/O connector panel coupled to a system. The method comprises:

providing information about the capabilities of the I/O connector panel to a memory within the I/O connector panel, *prior to connecting one or more peripherals to the I/O connector panel;*

examining the information in the memory; and

downloading at least one driver to the system coupled to the I/O panel based upon the examined information.

Advantageously, drivers can be downloaded independently of peripheral devices.

Pleso generally discloses a peripheral device including a memory storing a device driver which a computing system employs to communicate with the peripheral device (Abstract). More specifically, Pleso discloses a computer

system 10 including I/O cards 32 and peripheral devices P1-P4 (FIG. 1; 4:29-33). In turn, a peripheral device 52 includes ROM 72, 74, and RAM 76 in addition to other memory devices (FIG. 3; 7:24-28). The device driver for the peripheral device 52 is stored *within the memory, i.e., ROM 72, of the printer* (7:49-58; 8:39-42). During boot-up, drivers are transmitted within packets from the peripheral device 52 to a host computer 54 (i.e., embedded within driver field 176 of data 158 as shown in FIGS. 5a-5b). The driver can be stored in a flash memory of an I/O card 32 during the transmission (8:36-42). Thus, Pleso discloses a peripheral device that transmits a device driver to a host computer.

However, Pleso fails to teach or suggest the invention as recited in claim 1. In particular, claim 1 recites "providing information about the capabilities of the I/O connector panel to a memory within the I/O panel, prior to connecting one or more peripherals to the I/O connector panel." In fact, the capabilities can be unrelated to a particular peripheral, being instead related to the type of connectors such as RS 232, USB, RS-485 (see Specification page 5, lines 17-20). On the other hand, Pleso is limited to transmitting device drivers related to a peripheral device through the I/O card to the host computer. As a result, the peripherals of Pleso need to be coupled to the host computer for the transmission to occur. Even though, Pleso contains one statement that device drivers can be stored in the ROM 72, Pleso fails to contemplate that the storage will be other than a temporary, during the transmission. As a result, Pleso is unable to download drivers prior to the connection of peripherals. Thus, Pleso fails to teach or suggest at least the memory as configured in claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 and related dependent claims are patentable over Pleso (and the other prior art of record). Similarly, independent claims 5, 10 and 14 and related dependent claims, are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

CONCLUSION

Applicants' attorney believes this application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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